

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB284:
“An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status”

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Dr. Carol Dorfman and I am a pediatrician in New Haven, CT. I am also part of Fair Haven Community Health Center and the section of General Pediatrics at the Yale School of Medicine

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

In our primary care clinic, we see the motivation families have to take care of their children and themselves and the challenges they face. If they cannot access appropriate preventive and basic medical care, these patients are more likely to end up in the emergency room or being hospitalized. This places a greater burden on society, and is unnecessary and avoidable.

I support S.B. 284, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,
Carol Dorfman, MD, FAAP